

HDH Millet Non-System Road Obliteration Project

A claimant seeking to continue placer operations on his unpatented mining claim, located on National Forest System (NFS) lands, submitted a Plan of Operations (POO). An Environmental Analysis (EA) was completed in February 2017 and on April 17, 2017 the District Ranger issued a Decision Notice (DN) to authorize the claimant's POO.

Subsequently the claimant withdrew his plan and relinquished claim to mineral exploration on the site.

The authorization included access to placer mining operations requiring motor vehicle travel on a non-system road (a legacy temporary road not maintained as part of the NFS transportation system. With the termination of the claimant's operations there is no continuing need for this non-system road. The EA analysis included reclamation of the access road in final reclamation. Without mitigation, the road will erode away the road prism and channelize sediment into Canyon Creek and other smaller streams that feed into Canyon Creek.

The Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan 1988) forest-wide standards and guidelines charge the forest to obliterate roads no longer needed.

The Feather River Ranger District proposes to remove any culverts; construct 20 water-bars (water-bars are already flagged in the field); remove the berm on the outlet side of the forded stream crossing (west side of road) where current ponding is occurring; armor the crossing on the surface and outlet with 4-6 inch rock to provide stability, reduce erosion potential, and reduce sedimentation; scarify the entire road surface to promote percolation and natural revegetation; treat entire length of road that is scarified with weed free straw for erosion control; revegetate the road surface within sight distance of the entrance; and block the road at the junction with system roads using boulders or a large berm.

Obliteration of non-system road is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment (EA) because it meets requirements of under Categorical Exclusion 36 CFR 220.6(e)(20) Activities that restore, rehabilitate, or stabilize lands occupied by roads and trails, excluding National Forest System Roads and National Forest System Trails, to a more natural condition that may include removing, replacing, or modifying drainage structures, and ditches, reestablishing vegetation, reshaping natural contours and slopes, reestablishing drainage-ways, or other activities that would restore site productivity and reduce environmental impacts. This category requires a project record and a decision memo.

Implementation is expected to occur during the 2018 field season or when funding becomes available.

This project is not subject to notice, comment, and appeal.